





**"THE
CHARACTERISTICS
OF A SPIRITUAL
CHURCH"**

Acts 2:37-47



This passage is summary of the characteristics of the early church.

This early church was a spiritual church.

Our definition of a spiritual church is very different from that which the Bible sets forth.

That early church was a truly spiritual church.

In the first 13 chapters of Acts there are more than 40 references to the Holy Spirit.

The early church was a spirit-filled church.



I. THE HOLY SPIRIT WAS THE SOURCE OF ALL GUIDANCE:

A. He moved Philip to contact the Ethiopian Eunuch (*Acts 8:29*).

B. He prepared Peter for the coming of the emissaries of Cornelius (*Acts 10:19-20*).

1. He ordered Peter to go with them (*Acts 11:12-14*).

2. The break-through of racial barriers.

C. He ordered the church to set apart Paul and Barnabas to be the first missionaries (*Act.13:2-4*).

D. He guided the church in its decisions in the council at Jerusalem (*Acts 15:28*).

II. ALL THE LEADERS OF THE CHURCH WERE SPIRIT FILLED MEN:

- A. This is the one requirement all should consider when choosing leaders. Some examples are:
- B. The church had 12 pastors; Peter being the senior (*Acts 6:1-4*).
- C. They chose seven servants [deacons] (*Acts 6:3*).
- D. Barnabas, a faithful servant (*Acts 11:19-24*).
- E. The elders in Ephesus (*Acts 20:28*).

III. THE SPIRIT SUPPLIED THE DAILY NEEDS OF THE EARLY CHURCH:

- A.** They needed courage – The Holy Spirit supplied (*Acts 4:13, 29-31*).
- B.** They needed power – The Holy Spirit supplied (*Acts 1:8; 2:1-6*).
- C.** Peter's courage and eloquence before the Sanhedrin came from the Holy Spirit (*Acts 4:8-13*).
- D.** Paul's conquest in Cyprus was due to the power of the Holy Spirit (*Acts 13:4-12*).

IV. OUR NEEDS TODAY CAN BE MET BY THE HOLY SPIRIT: *(Ephesians 5:15-21)*

- A.** This is not speaking so much about getting drunk as it is being filled with the Spirit.
- B.** If we're not even to desire fermented wine the emphasis must be on our need to be filled with the Spirit.
- C.** Being filled with the Spirit is looking to Him for the power and provision of our everyday walk.
- D.** When we do this we will be a witness for Christ. We, as a church, will see people saved on a regular basis.

